

AFTER HIS TRUCK IS HI-JACKED, PETE COLLINS, WHO WOUNDED, MANAGES TO STAGGER NEARLY THREE MILES TO A FARMHOUSE, WHERE HE IS TAKEN IN AND CARED FOR. UNKNOWNSTO 'RED' AND 'THE GREEK,' WHO ARE OUT SEARCHING FOR HIM, PETE CALLS GEORGE EDWARDS AND TELLS WHERE HE IS. GEORGE AND STEVE HURRY TO PETE'S AID. THEY PLAN TO TAKE PETE TO STEVE'S OLD HOME AND LET GANG-LAND THINK HE IS DEAD.



PETE GOT HELD UP ABOUT TEN MILES FROM HERE AND THEY STOLE HIS TRUCK AND DRILLED HIM THROUGH THE SHOULDER. WE BROUGHT HIM HERE MR WEST TO REST UP FOR AWHILE. I'LL BE GLAD TO PAY YOU



I'D BE A FINE OLD TURTLE TO TAKE MONEY FROM YOU SIR. AFTER WHAT YOU'RE DOIN' FOR MY BOY.

FORGET IT.



WE'LL BE GOIN' AS SOON AS IT GETS DARK KID...THAT'S SOME DAD YOU GOT.

LET ME SHOW YOU A PICTURE OF MY MOTHER.

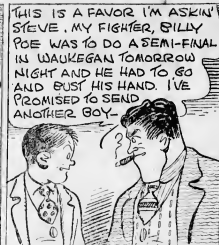


WASN'T SHE SWELL LOOKIN' GEORGE?

GEE, SHE WAS A KID - IT SEEMS IVE—









I'LL BE RIGHT OVER CHIEF. BUT LISTEN—THEY FOUND JOE MARINO LOADED DOWN WITH LEAD IN A WRECKED TAXI ON THE LAKE FRONT, ABOUT AN HOUR AGO. ED GAFFNEY'S ON THE JOB.

O.K. GUS
STEVE WILL
WAIT FOR C
YA.

I'LL BE AT THE TRAIN IN THE MORNIN' TO SEE YOU OFF KID. I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO BE ABLE TO GO, BUT I DON'T DARE LEAVE. HELL IS POPPIN' AROUND THIS TOWN NOW.

I COULDN'T HELP OVER-HEARING. Y-YOU AREN'T GOING TO SEND STEVE UP TO FIGHT A REAL P-R PUGILIST?

WHY NOT?

—WHAT DO YOU CARE?

ER. ER. GULP!

ER. WHAT IS THE BEST SPORTING PAPER? AH-M-ER-THAT IS-PRIZEFIGHTING NEWS-----

OUT
-TODAY-
WESTERN
TRAILS
L.O.V.



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FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE - HE WON! BY A TECHNICAL KAYO, WHATEVER THAT MEANS - AND I THOUGHT HE'D GET KILLED.



SO ENGROSSED WAS HELEN WYATT IN THE NEWS OF STEVE'S TRIUMPH, THAT SHE PAID SCANT ATTENTION TO THE BIG STORY OF THE DAY. BUT IN THE "EL" SHE HAPPENED TO GLANCE AT ANOTHER PERSON'S NEWSPAPER.



A GANG LEADER!! I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS A POLITICIAN BUT I DON'T CARE. HE WAS FINE - A REGULAR GUY. GOSH, THIS WILL KILL STEVE - BUT HE'LL STICK BY GEORGE - AND SO WILL I.



WHEN STEVE ARRIVES HOME FROM THE SCENE OF HIS RING TRIUMPH, HE GOES IMMEDIATELY TO GEORGE EDWARD'S OFFICE AND THERE HE FINDS HELEN WYATT STUNNED BY THE TRAGIC NEWS OF THE GANG BATTLE, IN WHICH GEORGE WAS SERIOUSLY HURT. STEVE, EXPECTING GAFFNEY TO APPEAR ANY MOMENT, WHISKS HELEN OUT OF THE OFFICE. WE FIND THEM NOW IN A TEAROOM ON MONROE ST.



I'M GOIN' DOWN TO THE HANG-OUT AND SEE IF DUTCH OR ANY OF THE BOYS ARE LEFT. PETE OUGHT TO BE THERE. AND KEEP A STIFF UPPER LIP KID. MAYBE IT AIN'T SO BAD AS IT SOUNDS.



STEVE AND GUS ARRIVE

GOSH HELEN!!

OH STEVE-
I-I-ISN'T
IT-T-E-RRIBLE
-?



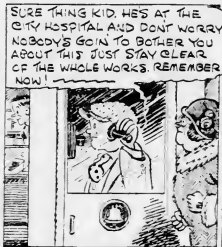
WHAT--TH-
ER. M-M-
GULP-HEY!
FOR --

BOO!
HOO!



LISTEN HELEN-STOP THE WEEPS
AND GET YOUR HAT. WE'VE GOT
TO GET OUT OF HERE. GAFFNEY
WILL BE COMIN' HERE, LOOKIN'
UP ALL OF GEORGE'S BUS-
INESS AND WE BETTER NOT
BE HERE.

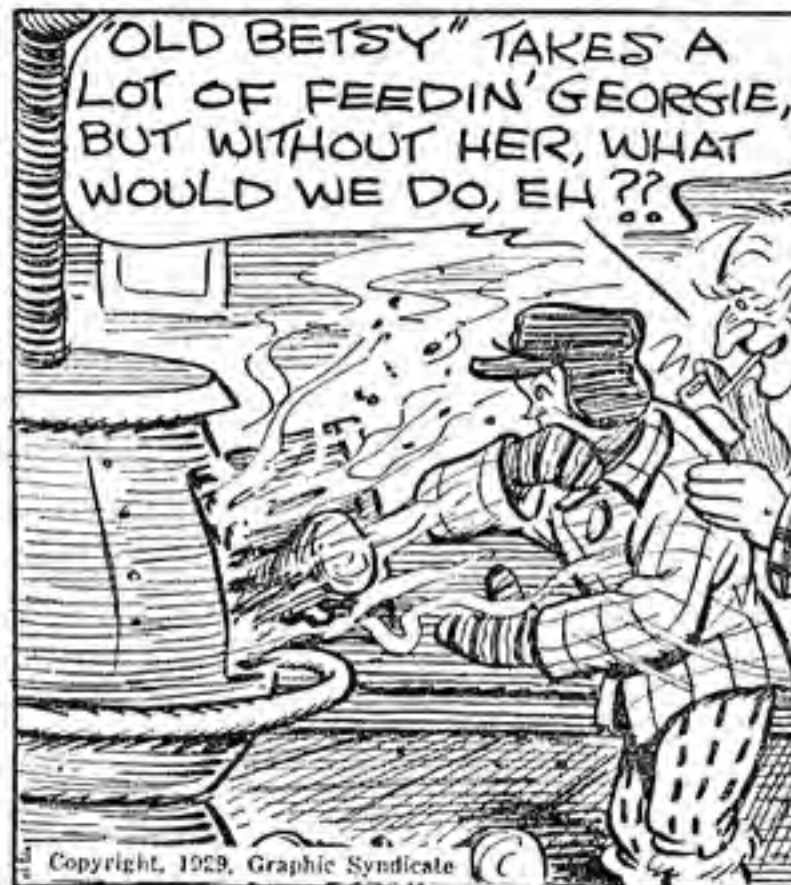








ANGUS MCCOOL, THE FACTOR, TOOK A LIKING TO ME. HE GAVE ME A HOME. I TRIED MY BEST TO EARN MY KEEP. IT WAS SURE COLD UP THERE ED, AND IT TOOK ME SOME TIME TO GET USED TO IT.



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AS TIME WENT ON, I FOUND OUT THAT ANGUS MCCOOL WAS A STRANGE MAN.

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AND THEN, JUST AFTER THE SNOWS HAD MELTED, I GOT THE BIGGEST KICK OF MY LIFE. I SAW!—AND TALKED! ED TO A ROYAL NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICEMAN.

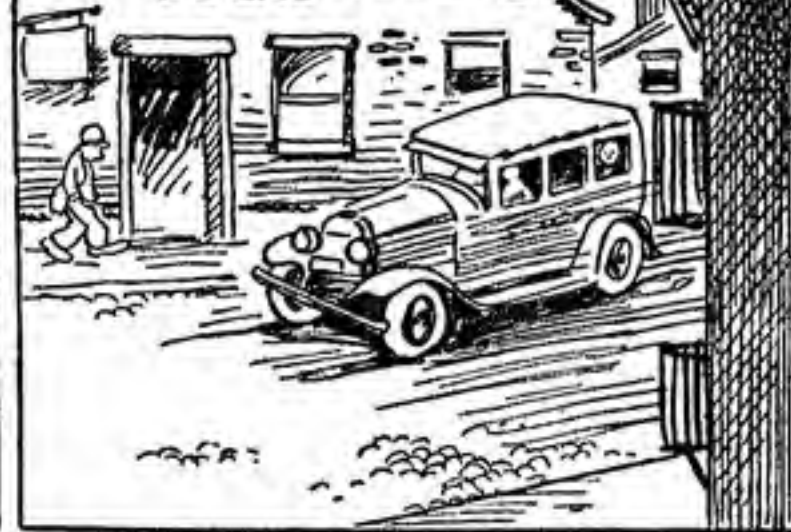


AN' ONE FUNNY MOVE OUT
OF YOU KID, AN IT WILL
BE YOUR LAST.



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STEVE THOUGHT
DESPERATELY. BUT NO
AVENUE OF ESCAPE
PRESENTED ITSELF.
SOON THE CAB THUND-
ERED TOWARD THE
DOCKS.



HERE'S YOUR FARE
CABBY. I'M NO PIKER—I
PAY FER MY RIDES, NOW
BEAT IT!



ASK AMOS DREW! HE'LL
BE HERE TONIGHT. HE'S
MET YOU BEFORE!

